(b) These sanctioned works comprise of 7 road works including a stretch from km. 23.700 to 34.200 of Sambalpur-Sonepur Road and 3 bridge works covering a length of about 146 km. to State Highways and Major District Roads in the State of Orissa.

(c) The tendering process for the sanctioned stretch of Sambalpur-Sonepur Road for widening and strengthening of existing single-lane carriage way to intermediate-lane carriage way with improvement of riding quality has started and the work is targeted for completion of 30.11.2007. It may however be mentioned that, the Sambalpur-Sonepur Road, inadvertently indicated as NH-15, is State Highway No. 15.

Widening of NHs

198. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Members of Parliament have written letters to him on 2nd September, 2004 about widening of National Highways between Sitamarhi to Muzaffarnagar, Motihari, Raxaul and other places which are still pending;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in the matter and replying to the MPs; and

(c) by when would the National Highways be repaired and made road use worthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Shri Raghunath Jha, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) had written a letter dated 5th September, 2004 regarding repair of National Highways between Sitamarhi to Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Raxaul and other places. No letter dated 2nd September, 2004 regarding widening of National Highways between Sitamarhi to Muzaffarpur (typed as Muzaffarnagar in the Question), Motihari to Raxaul and other places had been received from Members of Parliament.

(c) Motihari-Raxaul section of NH-28A has been entrusted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for its development and maintenance. NHAI has sanctioned a repair estimate amounting to Rs. 11.58 crore. Repair work is in progress. In Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur section of NH-77,

works for improvement in riding quality in aggregate length of 33 kms. and reconstruction of five number of bridges have been sanctioned for an aggregate amount of Rs. 22.53 crore, since 2004-05. Repair and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process.

National Waterways in Kerala

199. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of waterways which has been declared as National Waterways in Kerala;

(b) the estimated amount-proposed for the restoration of these waterways;

(c) the amount that has been allotted to Kerala by the Centre in the current financial year to undertake the work;

(d) whether any complaint has been received that the amount earmarked in the current years' budget is very meagre; and

(e) considering very low cost of transportation through waterways, would the centre allot sufficient funds to complete work as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The length of National Waterways in Kerala is 205 km.

(b) to (e) The estimated cost of making this National Waterways fully functional is Rs. 76.95 crores. A provision is Rs. 15.74 crores has been made for the year 2006-07. No complaint has been received regarding this year's budget provision for this Waterways. Efforts will be made to provide adequate funds for the early completion of work.

Goa Expressway

200. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goa Government are proposing to construct an expressway in the State running from north to south;